AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of enabling removal of a removable medium of a boot device included in a computer system when booting a boot operating system, the method comprising:

executing a boot device driver program, the boot device driver program being executed by the boot operating system of the computer system to configure a RAM disk;

copying contents of a boot sector of the removable medium to the RAM disk using the boot device driver program; and

modifying the boot operating system using the boot device driver program to redirect the boot media I/O to the RAM disk, the modified boot operating system enabling the removal of the removable medium.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the removable medium is an optical disc.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein memory of the computer system comprises the RAM disk memory allocated to emulate a hard disk.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the booted boot operating system enables the removable medium to operate as a backing store for the boot operating system, wherein the removable medium is normally locked.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the boot operating system enables the RAM disk to operate as a backing store for the boot operating

system, wherein the removable medium is normally unlocked.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the boot operating system is a 32-bit operating system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the 32-bit operating system is a Microsoft Windows NT™, Windows 2000™, Windows XP™ or Linux.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the execution of the boot device driver program further comprises:

determining size of the emulated hard disk defined by the boot sector size;

configuring a memory size of the RAM disk prior to the copying of the contents of the boot sector, wherein the configured RAM disk memory size is consistent with the size of the emulated hard disk.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the boot operating system enables loading of a second removable medium of the computer system on removal of the removable medium.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the second removable medium includes an image of a preferred operating system of the computer system.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the boot operating system comprises modifying a device manager included in the boot operating system.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein modifying the device manager comprises modifying values for an ARC name and at least one physical disk information table associated with the boot operating system.

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13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contents of the boot sector comprise the boot operating system and the boot device driver program stored as an embedded image.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory comprises a RAM disk memory allocated to emulate a hard disk;

a removable medium of a boot device, wherein the boot device is coupled to the processor and the memory, wherein a boot sector of the removable medium comprises an embedded image of a boot operating system; and

a boot device driver program executable by the boot operating system and enabled to modify the boot operating system to redirect boot devices I/O to the RAM disk, wherein the modified boot operating system enables the removal of the removable medium.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the removable medium is an optical disc.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the memory includes the RAM disk memory allocated to emulate a hard disk.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the booted boot operating system enables the removable medium to operate as a backing store for the boot operating system, wherein the removable medium is normally locked.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein modifying the boot operating system enables the RAM disk to operate as a backing store for the boot operating system, wherein the removable medium is normally unlocked.

19. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the boot operating system is a 32-bit operating system.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the 32-bit operating system is a Microsoft Windows NT™, Windows 2000™, Windows XP™ or Linux.

21. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the execution of the boot device driver program further comprises:

determining size of the emulated hard disk defined by the boot sector size;

configuring a memory size of the RAM disk prior to the copying of the contents of the boot sector, wherein the configured RAM disk memory size is consistent with the size of the emulated hard disk.

22. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein modifying the boot operating system enables loading of a second removable medium of the computer system on removal of the removable medium.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the second removable medium includes an image of a preferred operating system of the computer system.

24. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein modifying the boot operating system comprises modifying a device manager included in the boot operating system.

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25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein modifying the device manager comprises modifying values for an ARC name and at least one physical disk information table associated with the boot operating system.

26. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the contents of the boot sector comprise the boot operating system and the boot device driver program stored as the embedded image.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having a computer program accessible therefrom, wherein the computer program comprises instructions for:

executing a boot device driver program, wherein the boot device driver program is executed by a boot operating system, wherein the boot operating system is loaded by the boot device during a boot of a computer system;

copying contents of a boot sector of a removable medium of the boot device to a RAM disk using the boot device driver program, wherein the boot operating system and the boot device driver program are stored as an embedded image on the boot sector of the removable medium, wherein the RAM disk comprises memory of the computer system allocated to emulate a hard disk; and

modifying the boot operating system using the boot device driver program to redirect boot media I/O to the RAM disk, wherein the memory based boot operating system enables the removal of the removable medium.